

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

23rd February 2025

Vestment Colour: Green

Preparation

If possible, arrange candles, a crucifix and Gospel/Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Today we hear how it's important to show kindness to others, even when people are unkind to us. We should forgive others as our Father forgives us.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.)

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song". (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another Children's Liturgy resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

Alternatively say

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you; we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,

only begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:

have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the **Gospel Acclamation**: (same tune as above)

Alleluia, Alleluia
Jesus says
Live this way:
Be kind to other people,
Even when they're not kind
Forgive them,
Show God's love

Alternatively say:

Alleluia, alleluia
A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
That you love one another, just as I have loved you.
Alleluia

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary Year C. Alternatively use the Gospel in the new ESV-CE.

Luke 6:27-36

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke".

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) as we say together "**Glory to You, O Lord.**"

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say: "**The Gospel of the Lord**".

All reply: "**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**".

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

- What is the message that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel?
(He asks us to show kindness to everyone, even those who are unkind to us)
- Ask the children about a time they were not treated kindly and how they handled this. Discuss with them the temptation that can be there to act in a way that is unkind back to those who hurt us.
- Ask the children what it means to love your enemies?
(It means be kind to those we don't get on with and to show Jesus' love to them)

Jesus asks us to treat everyone as they we want to be treated. We should not judge others, and we should forgive others who do things that are wrong towards us.

- Ask the children what they can do if they are struggling with forgiveness.
(They can put themselves in the position of the other person and they can pray to God asking for help to forgive)

Reference may be made to the Our Father, specifically.

“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...”

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

Lord Jesus,

Help us to show love and forgiveness to those who hurt us. Let others see Jesus' love through the kindness we show to one another.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Lord Jesus,

Fill us with your gifts of peace, hope and love. Help us to share our gifts with everybody we meet.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer”**

Activity

If there is time, use resources to complete an activity with the children. Possible resources are listed at the end.

Closing Prayer

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families/guardians in church.

Useful Resources

CAFOD at <https://cafod.org.uk/Children-s-Liturgy>

Children's Liturgy with Emily: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwnLJNMXemY>

Archdiocese of Dunkeld: <https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/resources-for-children-liturgy/>

Search for page entitled 'Resources for Children's Liturgy'

The Liturgy of the Word with Children by Katie Thompson, publisher Kevin Mayhew